

Concerning Donations to "California Medical Association Needy Members Fund."

Fresno, March 17, 1941.

To the Editor:—Enclosed find an item for solicitation of funds for aid to needy members, and forms for contributions and bequests.

I have adapted these forms from the Pennsylvania Medical Society forms. . . .

I should like to have this published in the April number of CALIFORNIA AND WESTERN MEDICINE.

Very sincerely,

(Signed) A. E. ANDERSON, M. D.

✓ ✓ ✓

SOLICITATION

The Committee on Aid to Needy Members, realizing the fact that an adequate fund must be accumulated before distribution of aid can commence, hereby solicits subscriptions and bequests. Contributions will be acknowledged through CALIFORNIA AND WESTERN MEDICINE. Such gifts or bequests are recognized as proper deductions in calculating annual income for tax purposes. Blank forms for contributions and bequests, as below, may be used.

✓ ✓ ✓

CONTRIBUTION

I hereby agree to contribute to the Aid to Needy Members Fund of the California Medical Association the sum of \$_____ and agree to pay the same as follows:

Mail to California Medical Association, 450 Sutter Street, San Francisco.

✓ ✓ ✓

BEQUEST

I hereby give and bequeath to the Aid to Needy Members Fund of the California Medical Association the sum of \$_____ to be used for the aid of needy members and their dependents under the rules and regulations adopted by the California Medical Association.

(The foregoing form to be an item of the will of the person making the bequest.)

Concerning Course in Tropical Medicine.

New York, N. Y., March 4, 1941.

To the Editor:—Enclosed is a notice of the course in tropical medicine that is being given at the New York Postgraduate Medical School, Columbia University, in May of this year.

Very sincerely yours,

Z. BERCOVITZ, M. D.

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COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY

New York Postgraduate Medical School

Department of Medicine

Course No. 348: Recent Advances in Tropical Medicine (Preliminary Announcement). Five days, May 19 to 23, 1941. Under the direction of Dr. Z. Bercovitz. Fee, \$50.

The purpose of this course is to bring to physicians a review of the fundamentals of the various subjects in tropical medicine, and the more recent advances that have come from research. To this end, arrangements have been made to have authorities in their respective fields give lectures and demonstrations in their specialties. Clinical and laboratory material is available for study and demonstration, and the students are given an opportunity for practical work in clinical parasitology.

Applications should be addressed to the Director, 309 East Twentieth Street, New York City.

Concerning Prize Awards in the Scenario Contest (California Medical Association Committee on Public Health Education).

(COPY)

Los Angeles, March 25, 1941.

Mr. John Hunton
Executive Secretary
California Medical Association
450 Sutter
San Francisco, California

Dear Mr. Hunton:

Your letter informing me that I have been awarded first and second prize and the title prize in the California Medical Association's scenario contest arrived this afternoon.

As you can imagine, I am pleased and thrilled, and feel amply repaid for the research, creative and technical labor involved in both scenarios. Indeed, the research proved an education in itself, and I enjoyed every moment of the work. For this reason I feel the projected motion picture or series of pictures will be a boon to laymen everywhere, and I hope the Association will be able to follow through on the production of "Milestones of Medicine." It will, I hope, fill a long-felt need in acquainting the public with the achievements of medical science.

My thanks to you, sir, and, through your good offices, to the Committee on Public Health Education and the officers, councilors, and members of the California Medical Association.

Sincerely yours,

CARL FOREMAN.

Concerning the Western Association Industrial Physicians and Surgeons.

Crockett, California, March 18, 1941.

To the Editor:—Enclosed is a copy of the program for the first annual meeting of the Western Association of Industrial Physicians and Surgeons.*

All physicians are cordially invited to attend our session. The luncheon, to be held on Sunday, May 4, at 12:30, will not entail an extra charge for those who are registered at the hotel.

The Western Association of Industrial Physicians and Surgeons, whose charter meeting is being held at Del Monte on Sunday, May 4, 1941, has been a component society of the American Association of Industrial Physicians and Surgeons since January 1, 1941. Its objectives are to promote interest and education in industrial medicine and in its problems, which include:

Physical examinations of employees.

Plant sanitation and preventive medicine in industry.

The problem of placement of partially disabled or aged employees.

The medical or surgical care of those disabled through occupational accidents or disease.

The rehabilitation of employees not adequately adjusted following injuries or disease, as well as

The status, interpretation and trends of compensation laws.

There are two classes of memberships.

(a) Active membership, which includes those members who are engaged at least 25 per cent of their time in industrial medicine and are responsible for the medical environment of the employees of a unit of industry; they must belong to their respective county medical societies and be either members or Fellows of the American Medical Association; these members automatically become members of the American Association of Industrial Physicians and Surgeons; and

(b) Associate membership, which comprises those members who, through their specialties and practice, treat industrial injuries or disease, but whose connection with the industrial background of their patients is more remote.

Members of both classifications receive the *Journal of Industrial Medicine*. Membership as of March 15 is approximately one hundred.

* For date of meeting, see page 177. List of addresses will appear in the program.

The agencies actively interested in various phases of industrial medicine are numerous. They include: State Bureaus of Occupational Hygiene, United States Public Health Service Bureaus, American Industrial Hygiene Association, American College of Surgeons, and various foundations carrying out research or educational work; and recently, the American Medical Association through its Council of Industrial Health, and, of course, the State Society through its Industrial Practice Committee.

It is part of the program of the Western Association of Industrial Physicians and Surgeons to keep informed of the proceedings of these organizations, and so further the interests of industrial medicine. For this reason, we invite all members of the California Medical Association, who find it possible, to attend our meeting. We look forward to much of mutual interest, whatever the special field of our guests.

Respectfully submitted,

CHRISTOPHER LEGGO, M. D.,
Secretary.

Concerning a Lecturer on "Anatomy of the Head and Neck."

(COPY)

STATE OF CALIFORNIA
DEPARTMENT OF
PROFESSIONAL AND VOCATIONAL STANDARDS
BOARD OF MEDICAL EXAMINERS
Sacramento, California,
April 4, 1941.

Mr. J. W. Williams, Assistant Special Agent
Board of Medical Examiners
515 Van Ness Avenue, Room 214
San Francisco, California

Re: Charles Augustus de Vere

Dear Mr. Williams:

Recalling the individual named Charles Augustus de Vere, whom you arrested in Auburn, a news item printed in the *Sacramento Bee* of April 2, 1941, related that Charles Stone, Chief of the State Bureau of Criminal Identification in Sacramento, advised District Attorney Lowell Sparks of Placer County that "one of the human hands found in possession of C. A. de Vere, asserted bogus medical doctor, under arrest here, has been identified as that of a man arrested in St. Louis in 1926. The hands, preserved in jars, were forwarded to the State Bureau of Criminal Identification in Sacramento after de Vere, awaiting trial here for violating the Business and Professions Code by posing as a doctor, refused to say where he had obtained them. The Bureau official said a comparison of the fingerprints shows the hand belonged to Wallace James Johnstone, then 27, arrested in the Missouri city on a charge of suspicion of robbery. Johnstone gave Spokane, Washington, as his home address. The officials are endeavoring to determine what became of Johnstone subsequent to his arrest."

Very truly yours,

C. B. PINKHAM, M. D.,
Secretary-Treasurer.

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"Charles Stone, Chief of the State Bureau of Identification, today announced C. A. de Vere, under arrest in Auburn, Placer County, on a charge of impersonating a medical doctor, has admitted the source of his collection of preserved sections of human bodies.

"De Vere was arrested in Colfax on March 16 and his gruesome cargo was confiscated by the police after one of his series of lectures on the anatomy of the head and neck,

which the authorities say he gave in many cities throughout the country, including Sacramento, last November.

"In de Vere's possession the police found the equivalent of a traveling morgue—a sixteen-cylinder automobile stocked with preserved sections of the human body, ranging from thirty human skulls to eight jars of eyes. These, de Vere told the police, he used in his lectures.

"Among the collection was a set of preserved human arms, which through fingerprints taken by the State Bureau of Identification, were found to be those of William James Johnstone, arrested in St. Louis in 1926 on suspicion of robbery. A human head, which the police believe also was Johnstone's, was found in the collection.

"Stone said he is checking with the St. Louis police for further details on Johnstone.

"After checking on de Vere's background, Stone said the arrested man was found to be Charles Augustus Devermann, whose home was in New Jersey, although he had been in California for more than five years.

"Stone says the New Jersey police checked with de Vere's mother, who said, to her knowledge, her son was not a doctor and had not gone beyond the ninth grade in school, although he did attend night school for a time.

"Letters and receipts found on de Vere's person showed he had lived in Stockton, Los Angeles, and New York.

"State Investigator Roger Green said de Vere enlisted the aid of a group of doctors in each city he visited to arrange for his courses. He charged \$20 a person for the lectures, which Green said were supposed to be 'refresher courses' for doctors a long time out of medical school.

"Stone declined to divulge the name of the institution where de Vere claims he obtained the collection of preserved human members until he 'is sure de Vere is telling the truth.'

"Records found on de Vere's person show he has lectured in San Francisco and Oakland, and he was recommended by five Sacramento doctors prior to his lecture here.

"Yesterday de Vere admitted he is not a doctor of medicine, although numerous communications were found in his possession with the letters 'M. D.' after his name.

"The complaint against de Vere was sworn to by the State Medical Board."—*Sacramento Bee*, April 3.

How long ago it seems. In 1859 Mr. Richard C. Downing, superintendent of sanitary inspection of New York City, said, "I consider it very unjust to give the health inspector of the City of New York power to quarantine a house where there is smallpox."—*Better Times*, December 13, 1940.

Nothing is more important at the present time than to continue and to intensify the campaign against tuberculosis and against syphilis, and I hope that no one will permit his attention to be swayed from the objectives we have in mind, because the fight against these diseases is more important at a time of crisis as a measure of national defense than it is in normal times.—Frank C. Boudreau, M. D.

In a ten-year tuberculin-testing program in rural and town schools in four counties in Minnesota the percentage of reactors has fallen from 14.1 to 6.75 per cent. The decrease is attributed to a careful follow-up of all positive reactors, with an intensive search for the source of the infection. Contact with open cases of tuberculosis was broken by hospitalization of the case or placing the children in a home free from tuberculosis. All teachers and school personnel were included in the plan.